

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166765
ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:HJFELDMAN/DGBROWN:ARCK

APPROVED BY EA/ROC:HJFELDMAN

HA/HR - L.E. MORIN (PHONE)

-----114083 301930Z /41

P 301906Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166765

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PINT, SHUM, TW

SUBJECT:MOFA RESPONSE RE CHEN CHU

REFERENCE: (A) TAIPEI 4172

- - (B) TAIPEI 4129

1. INASMUCH AS FRASER SUB-COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DEPT SEEKING INFORMATION ON THIS CASE, AS HAVE AMERICAN CITIZEN GROUPS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR DEPT TO RESPOND TO THESE OUTSTANDING QUERIES BY SAYING IT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GROG BUT IS UNABLE TO DIVULGE WHAT GROG HAS TOLD US. BELIEVE YOU THEREFORE SHOULD INFORM MOFA THAT OUR QUESTIONS WERE RELATED TO CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION; THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS IN ANYONE'S INTERESTS FOR US TO STATE EITHER THAT THE ROC HAS NOT RESPONDED TO OUR QUESTIONS OR THAT ROC HAS RESPONDED BUT SWORN US TO SECRECY. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT, WHILE WE DO NOT INTEND TO VOLUNTEER ANY INFORMATION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 166765

TO BEING RESPONSIVE TO CONGRESSIONAL AND CITIZEN INQUIRIES.

2. AT SAME TIME, EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO NOTE USG VIEW THAT HOLDING A SUSPECT UNDER DETENTION FOR UP TO FOUR MONTHS,

ESSENTIALLY INCOMMUNICADO, WITHOUT ACCESS TO EITHER FAMILY OR LEGAL COUNSEL, IS IN ITSELF A VIOLATION OF

THE INDIVIDUAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS. AS MOFA'S FORMAL RESPONSE DID NOT ADDRESS OUR REQUEST TO ATTEND PROBABLE TRIAL OF MISS CH'EN, EMBASSY SHOULD CAREFULLY REITERATE THIS REQUEST.

3. DEPT (EA/ROC) HAS CONVEYED TO ROC EMBASSY WASHINGTON ALL THE POINTS WHICH EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED (STATE 161637) TO MAKE TO MOFA.

4. RE EMBASSY'S REQUEST IN LAST SENTENCE OF REF B, MARYNOLL "JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE", A DIVISION OF MARYNOLL HQ IN OSSINING, NEW YORK, CONTACTED DEPT JUNE 29 TO EXPRESS ITS INTEREST AND REQUEST DETAILS. FYI: REV. PETER BARRY, CURRENTLY ON HOME LEAVE FROM TAIPEI, WHO TOOK PART IN THAT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, INFORMED US THAT HE AND "OTHER FRIENDS" OF MISS CH'EN ARRANGED FOR HER TO STAY WITH BOCCIERI. END FYI. MARYNOLLERS ALSO SAID THEY ARE CONSIDERING PUBLICIZING CH'EN CASE IN CATHOLIC PRESS. VANCE

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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